

SENATOR McKENZIE: Yes.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Yes. I wanted to make that clear because there seemed to be some misunderstanding from people here at their desks. So with that, I stand in support of the amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Senator Bohlke. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Coordsen, members of the Legislature, I think it's been a good discussion. I know the formula is very difficult to understand. And even for those of us on the Education Committee after we've been away from it a little while, it becomes difficult to understand all over again. But I just wanted to make clear that over here on the one side where you're getting state reimbursement, 90 percent reimbursement for those allowable costs, this amendment has nothing to do with that at all. That money will still come into the school districts. It will still be an accountable receipt that you have to take into consideration on your resources side of the formula. So none of that changes. The question is over here on the other side, on the needs side, how do we...how do we say it's fair to balance that? Is it fair to balance it by averaging some sort of tier cost for every school district, or is it fair to balance it by saying every school district will be able to balance it with what their actual costs are for special education? And I would argue for the idea that we ought to allow, as this amendment does, to get their actual costs back, and to balance that against the 90 percent on the other side of the formula that's coming into the district. And although we need to look at access to the system and all of those different questions, let me suggest to you that I don't think any school district intentionally puts people into special education categories. I think they all try to take a reasonable view towards that, and that this is not like some area where it might balloon up if you didn't have serious controls on it. Even though we do have a control in the amendment, I don't know that it would be all that big a problem anyway in the sense that school districts don't want these costs to balloon either. They want to try to keep them down, but I think when they are forced to make by the federal government, by the laws that exist, decisions that say that children will have the help of a special education and that help is sometimes extremely expensive that